

AUG 7 1989

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MANAGEMENT BRANCH

Ms. Janet L. Ehrhart
1549 E. Main
Griffith, Indiana 46319

Dear Ms. Ehrhart:

On June 12, 1989, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) received your written request for assistance to address potential public health concerns related to the American Chemical Service National Priorities List (NPL) site in Griffith, Indiana.

The ATSDR is authorized by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended in 1986, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, as amended in 1984, to evaluate the public health consequences of hazardous substance releases to the environment. We conduct a health assessment as a necessary first step in this evaluation. An ATSDR health assessment is an analysis of all relevant data (environmental data, demographic data, toxicological data, health records, etc.) for the purpose of ascertaining the public health implications of individual waste sites, facilities, and hazardous substance spills. If a health assessment indicates a potential problem with respect to public health, ATSDR, working in cooperation with your State health department, will determine what further follow-up is warranted.

Since American Chemical Service is listed by the Environmental Protection Agency on the NPL, ATSDR was required by law to complete a health assessment on or before December 10, 1988. In accordance with this mandate, ATSDR completed a preliminary health assessment (see enclosure) for this site on November 14, 1988. This preliminary health assessment was conducted in accordance with Section 104(i)(7)(4) of CERCLA. Based on information available at that time, ATSDR determined that the American Chemical Service site was of potential public health concern because of the risk to human health caused by the possibility of exposure to hazardous substances. However, because of the limited amount of available data, ATSDR was unable to determine the actual impact of the site on public health. When additional information and data become available, such material will form the basis for further assessment by ATSDR.

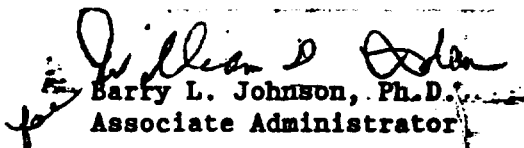
We will evaluate the information provided with your request and will make additional inquiries to State health and environmental agencies to determine what further action, if any, is required at this time. If you have any additional information which may facilitate our evaluation, please forward it to us as soon as possible.

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We are considering your letter as a petition for a health assessment and will be in contact with you as we further investigate the American Chemical Service site.

In the meantime, we request that you please address inquiries and concerns to the ATSDR representative(s) in your region, Louise A. Fabinski or Denise Jordan-Izaguirre at 312/353-8228.

Sincerely yours,


Barry L. Johnson, Ph.D.
Associate Administrator

Enclosure

cc:

L. Fabinski Region V

M. Bashor, OHA

G. Buynoski, FOB, OEA

Office of General Counsel

/ EPA Region V

ATSDR:OHA:JReyes:pl 8/1/89

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